

# northeast iowa

By Bill Kalishek, Regional Fisheries Supervisor

## smallmouth bass

Cedar River, **Bremer** – Decent numbers of smallmouth bass between Waverly and Janesville.

Cedar River  
**Floyd and Mitchell**

– Good populations throughout both counties; catch-and-release from Halverson Park to the dam at Otranto.

Maquoketa River catch-and-release area, **Delaware** – Classic rock habitat in this stretch makes for excellent smallmouth bass fishing. Better than average reproduction during early 2000s has resulted in good numbers of fish exceeding 12 inches available.

Maquoketa River, **Jones** – Anglers fishing from Monticello dam downstream through Pictured Rocks area will find fair numbers of smallies.

Mississippi River, **Pools 9 through 13** – Better numbers of smallmouths can be found in Pools 9 and 10, but fish-

able populations are present downstream through Pool 13. Fish along shoreline rock protection, rocky day markers, and wingdams, especially during low water conditions. Good numbers of 10- to 13-inch fish but fish up to 4 pounds are routinely caught.



Turkey River,  
**Clayton, Fayette, Winneshiek,** and

Howard)  
– You can find

anywhere

Try wading the portion in Howard County during the summer.

Upper Iowa River, **Allamakee, Winneshiek, and Howard** – Good smallmouth numbers throughout this river. Float the upstream areas in Howard County during higher flows in the spring.

just about  
in this river.

Volga River, **Fayette** – Small stream that can be fished by floating or wading; public access at the Volga River Recreation Area and the town of Fayette.

Wapsipinicon River, **Buchanan** – A lot of fish in the 10- to 15-inch range. Fish rocky shorelines or fallen woody structure with both live baits or artificial lures. Recent fish surveys show improved numbers.

## channel catfish

Big Woods Lake, **Black Hawk** – Big fish and lots of them. The connection with the Cedar River pumps catfish into this lake.

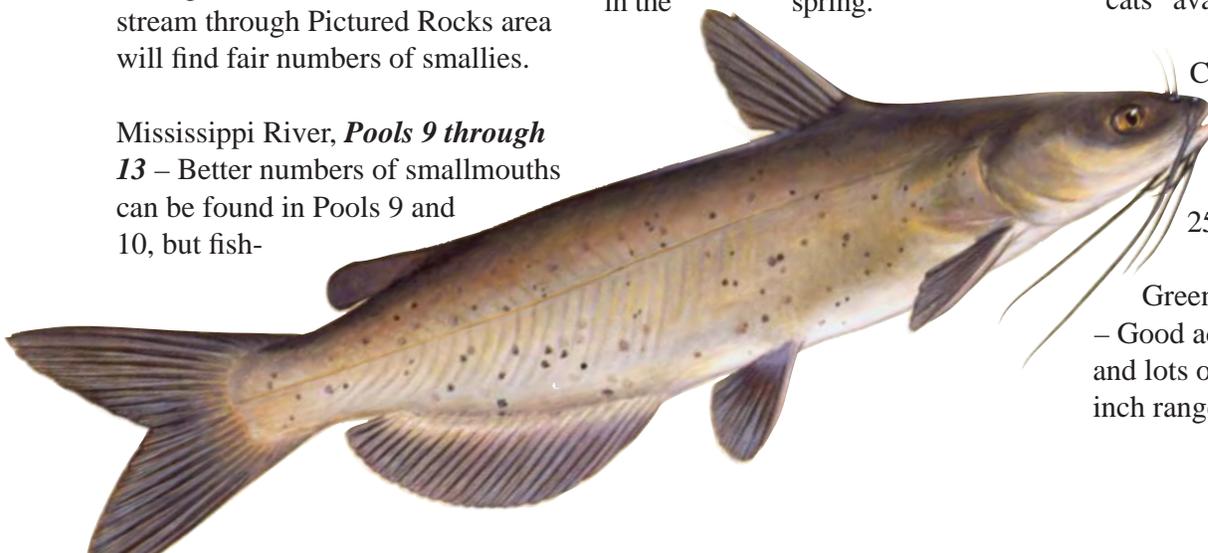
Casey Lake, **Tama** – Local favorite. Good shoreline access. Catfish of all sizes available.

Cedar River, **Bremer** – 2005 fish survey indicates excellent numbers of “cats” available.

Cedar, **Floyd and Mitchell**

– Very good numbers from the Mitchell dam downstream with 20- to 25-inch fish present.

Greenbelt Lake, **Black Hawk** – Good access for family outings and lots of catfish in the 11- to 15-inch range.



Lake Hendricks, **Howard** – Good population of 15- to 20-inch catfish with some up to 25.

Maquoketa River, **Delaware** – Good numbers and size of catfish available. Early morning and late evening is best. Best fishing from Manchester to Lake Delhi dam.

Mississippi River, **Pools 9-15** – Excellent reproduction past few years has produced huge numbers of channel cats in the Mississippi. Try fishing flowing water along secondary channels near brush piles. Size of catfish varies from fiddlers to 4 pounds.

Volga Lake, **Fayette** – Excellent population of all sizes with very abundant 15- to 20-inchers; fish the rip-rap along the dam in mid-summer.

Wapsipinicon River, **Buchanan** – Good numbers of 3- to 5-pound catfish between Otterville and Littleton.



Dalton Pond, **Jackson** – Physical improvements to this small area create a park-like atmosphere. Easy, laid-back pond fishing with close access.

Ensign Hollow, **Clayton** – This catch-and-release-only stream

provides the opportunity to catch trophy-sized brown trout.

Grannis Creek, **Fayette** – Stocked with rainbow and brook trout weekly from April through October; greatly improved habitat and universal fishing access.

Paint Creek, **Allamakee** – Major habitat improvement project

completed in 2005; stocked with rainbows and brooks; wild brown trout also present.

Richmond Springs, **Delaware** – Stocked with catchable-size rainbow trout both during the week and on Saturdays, this is a popular place for family fishing.

Sny Magill Creek, **Clayton** – Increased brown trout population due to fingerling stockings; stocked regularly with rainbows and brooks.

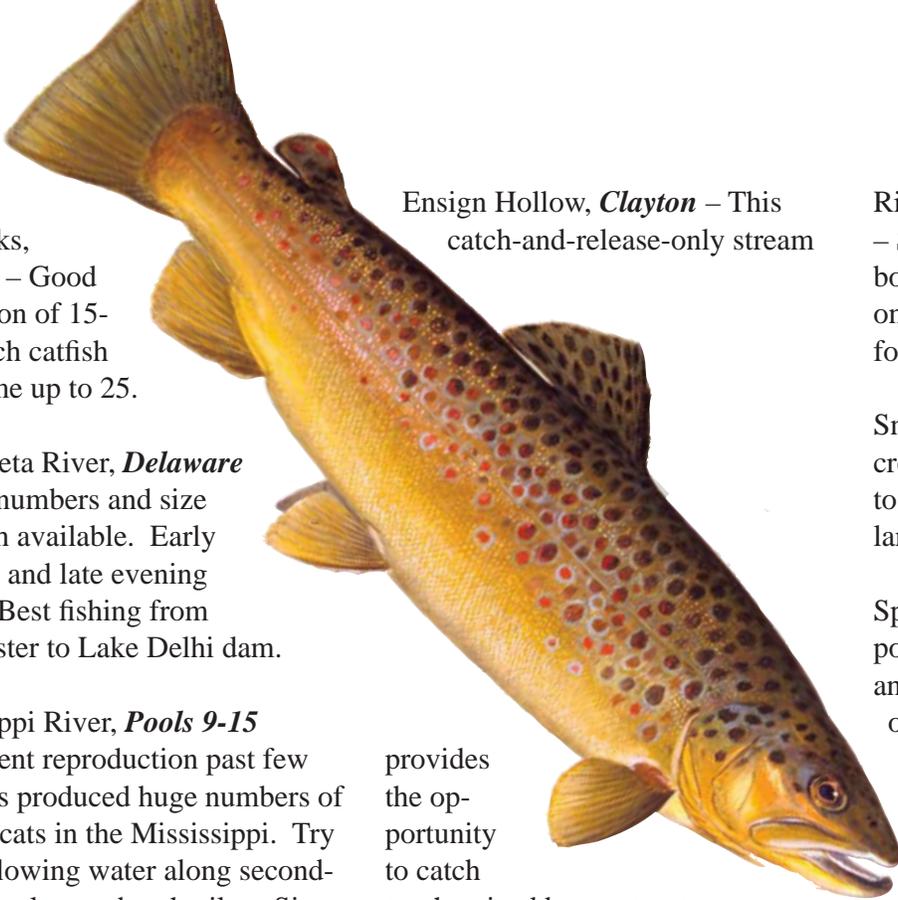
Spring Branch, **Delaware** – Strong population of brown trout 12 inches and greater. Three continuous miles of coldwater stream open to fishing. Good insect hatches on this stream.

Swiss Valley, **Dubuque** – Three consecutive years of fish habitat work helps support trout year round in this county park.

Trout Run, **Winneshiek** – Improvements in trout habitat has resulted in excellent survival of weekly stocked rainbows and brook trout; some wild

brown trout also inhabit this stream.

Waterloo Creek, **Allamakee** – Excellent population of wild brown trout in lower reaches; upper segments stocked with rainbow and brook trout weekly.

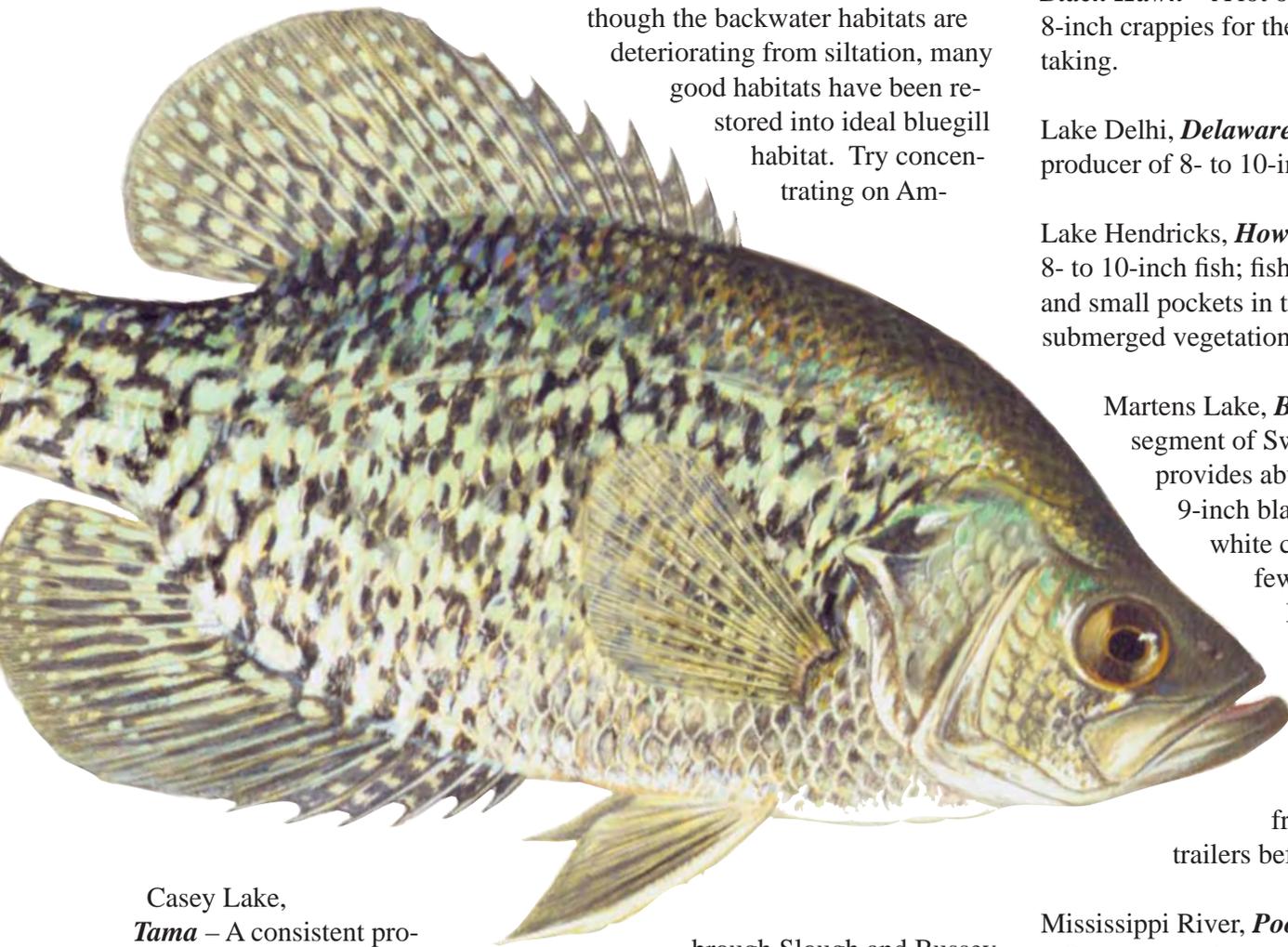


## bluegills

Bergfeld Pond, **Dubuque** – Located in Dubuque industrial park. This lake is easy for families to fish for abundant 6- to 7-inch bluegills.

Lake Hendricks, **Howard** – Lots of fish up to 8 inches with a 9-inch bluegill a possibility; try poppers along the edge of the submerged vegetation in the summer.

Mississippi River, **Pools 9 – 14** – Although the backwater habitats are deteriorating from siltation, many good habitats have been re-stored into ideal bluegill habitat. Try concentrating on Am-



Casey Lake, **Tama** – A consistent producer of 8-inch bluegills. Look for these “gills” on beds in May or drift the main lake during the summer months.

Lake Delhi, **Delaware** – Good numbers of bluegills in the 7- to 8-inch range. Fish the fallen woody structure along rocky shorelines. Fish early morning or late afternoon to avoid heavy boat traffic on this narrow Maquoketa River impoundment.

brough Slough and Bussey Lake in Pool 10, Sunfish Lake and Bertom Lake in Pool 11, Browns Lake and Pomme de Terre Lake in Pool 13.

Volga Lake, **Fayette** – Good numbers of 6-8 inch bluegills; the face of the dam (especially in early spring) and submerged brush piles on the south shore are good areas.

## crappies

Big Woods Lake, **Black Hawk** – A lot of 8-inch crappies for the taking.

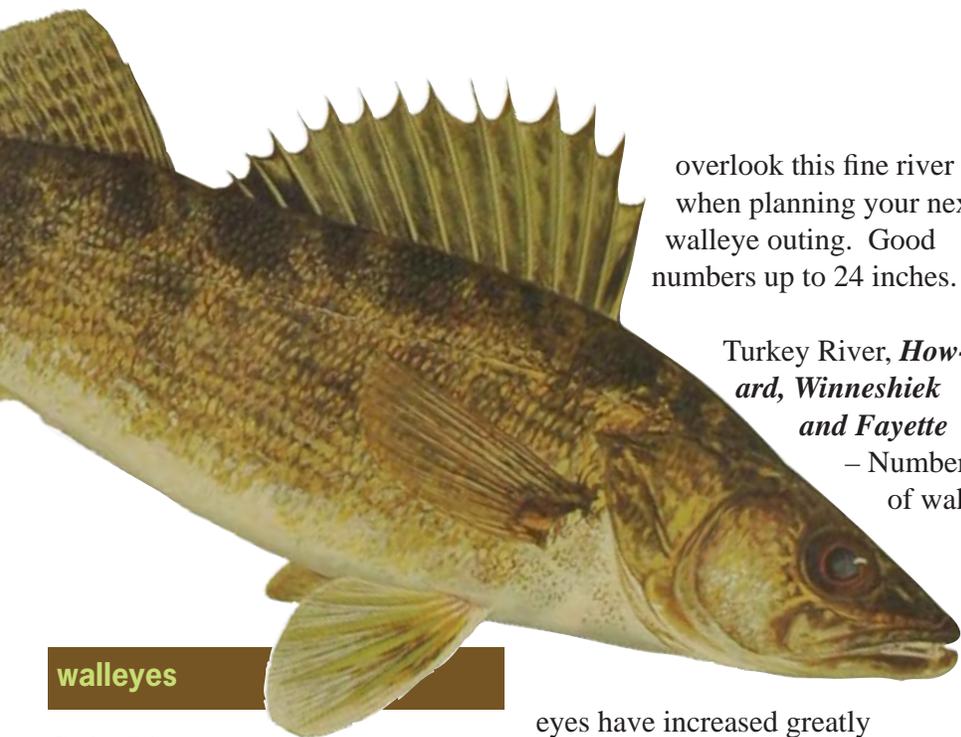
Lake Delhi, **Delaware** – Consistent producer of 8- to 10-inch crappies.

Lake Hendricks, **Howard** – Lots of 8- to 10-inch fish; fish the outer edge and small pockets in the abundant submerged vegetation.

Martens Lake, **Bremer** – This segment of Sweet Marsh provides abundant 8- to 9-inch black crappies; white crappies much fewer but larger. Eurasian water milfoil present so remove all aquatic vegetation from boats and trailers before leaving.

Mississippi River, **Pools 9-14** – Crappie populations remain strong in the Mississippi. Best times are early morning and late afternoon. Concentrate on the deeper backwater areas or low current sloughs near woody structure and brushpiles.

Volga Lake, **Fayette** – Fish the riprap on the dam in spring for 9- to 11-inch fish; work the large submerged brush piles in summer.



### walleyes

Cedar River, **Black Hawk** – Good walleye fishing below the dam in Waterloo in fall and early winter. Trophy-size fish caught every year.

Cedar River, **Bremer** – Fisheries surveys indicate good survival of stocked walleyes from recent years. Good numbers of 15-inch-plus walleyes available.

Cedar River, **Floyd and Mitchell** – A consistent producer for quality walleye angling; populations maintained through annual fingerling stockings. Mississippi River, **Pools 9-15** – The 2005 walleye fishery was slower than 2004, but the population is still good. Strong year classes of young walleyes coming on bodes well for future years.

Shellrock River, **Butler** – Don't

overlook this fine river when planning your next walleye outing. Good numbers up to 24 inches.

Turkey River, **Howard, Winneshiek and Fayette**

– Numbers of wall-

eyes have increased greatly since fingerling stockings were initiated in 2000.

Wapsipinicon River, **Buchanan** – Annual stockings have made this river a consistent producer of abundant and quality-size fish.

### largemouth bass

George Wyth Lake, **Black Hawk** – What this population lacks in numbers it

makes up for in size. Bass 18 to 19 inches available.

Lake Delhi, Delaware – There is a good year-class of bass 12 to 15 inches present. Fish the fallen woody structure along rocky

shorelines. Fish early morning and late afternoon to avoid heavy boat traffic on this narrow Maquoketa River impoundment.

Lake Hendricks, **Howard** – High numbers of bass up to 16 inches.

Mississippi River, **Pools 9-14** – Strong numbers of largemouth bass exist in the Mississippi River. Bigmouths often change locations throughout the year. Bass reside in low current backwaters in the cold seasons and many move into flowing sloughs and channels and even onto near-channel wingdams in the warmer months.

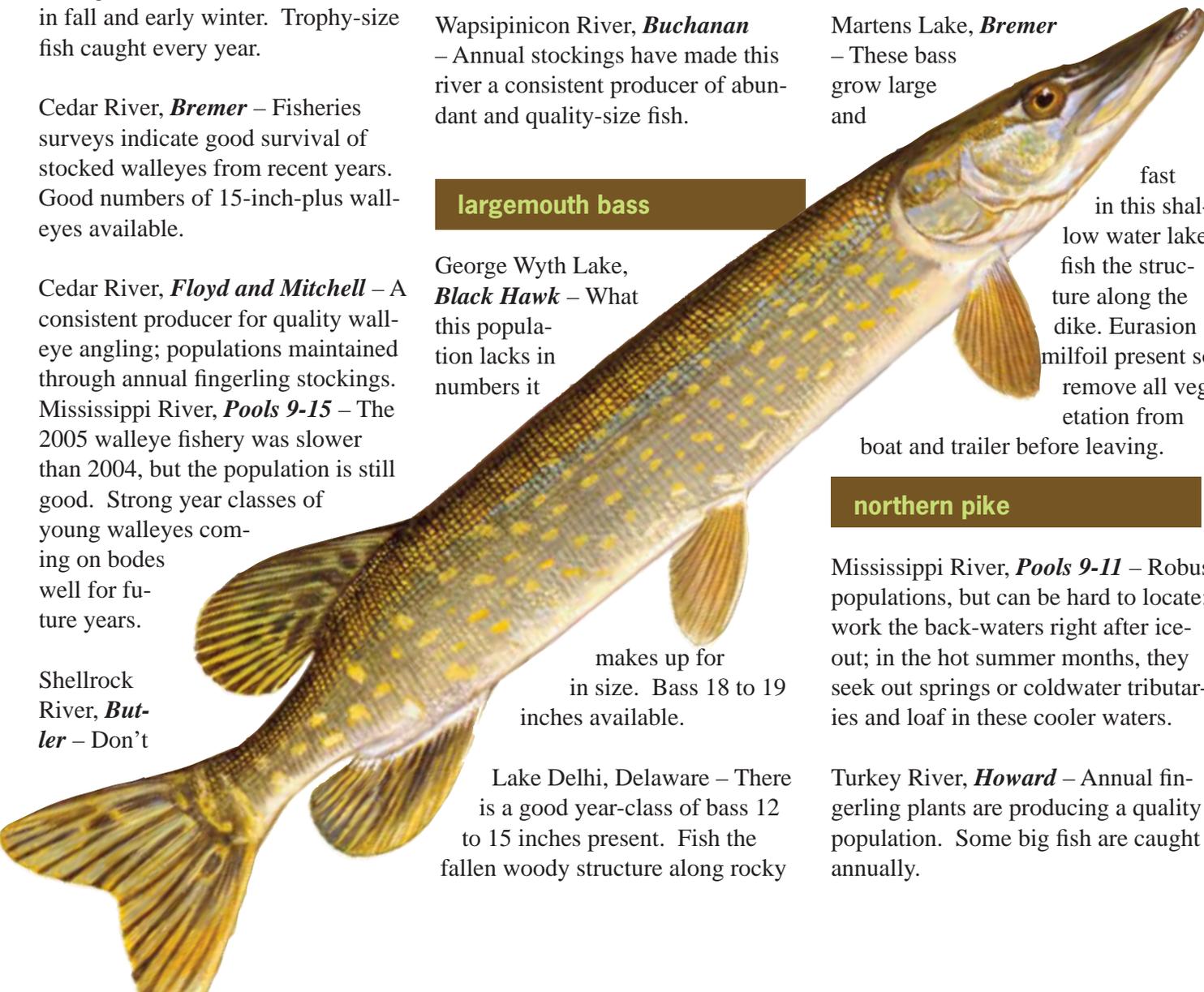
Martens Lake, **Bremer** – These bass grow large and

fast in this shallow water lake; fish the structure along the dike. Eurasian milfoil present so remove all vegetation from boat and trailer before leaving.

### northern pike

Mississippi River, **Pools 9-11** – Robust populations, but can be hard to locate; work the back-waters right after ice-out; in the hot summer months, they seek out springs or coldwater tributaries and loaf in these cooler waters.

Turkey River, **Howard** – Annual fingerling plants are producing a quality population. Some big fish are caught annually.



# hiddenjewel

2006

## northeast

By Bill Kalishek, biologist  
The Cedar River in Mitchell County, from the town of Mitchell downstream, offers excellent angling for native populations of smallmouth bass and channel catfish. Annual stockings of fingerling walleye and northern pike also provide great fishing. It's best to float the river in a canoe or walk the Cedar River Greenbelt Trail from highway 9 to Mitchell or the Spring Park Trails. Interstate Park at Mitchell (modern facilities) and Spring Park near Osage (primitive camping) provide riverside accommodations.

## northwest

By Jim Christianson, biologist  
Lake Pahoja, Lyon County, is a 70-acre man-made lake that provides hours of recreation for the outdoor enthusiast. The fishing clientele is rather localized, probably due to its location in extreme northwestern Iowa. With recent fish management activities, the bluegill and crappie fisheries should expand and provide some good angling. This, along with some very good channel catfish fishing, will make this lake an angler's destination. The park area

adjacent to the lake is managed by the Lyon County Conservation Board and provides many amenities, including camping pads, cabins, trails, a beach, playgrounds, boat rentals and a covered fishing pier.

## southeast

By Don Kline, biologist  
Yenrougis Pond lays just 2 miles north of Sigourney. The rugged landscape of the abandoned rock quarry compliments the crystal clear water. Anglers will find healthy populations of bluegills, black crappies, largemouth bass, channel catfish and redear sunfish. Expect to catch a bunch of nice size fish of all species. Just vary your tackle and bait to fit the species of fish. Try a small hook and pinch of worm for panfish, flashy spinner baits for bass and smelly stink baits for catfish. Dabble along the shoreline or work the deeper water in a canoe or float tube. A gravel ramp is available for small boats with electric motors. Bring a picnic

or plan a primitive camp out in this quiet scenic area.

## southwest

By Gary Sobotka, biologist  
Nine Eagles Lake is a 56-acre lake hidden in Decatur County near Davis City. The lake has good populations of bluegill, largemouth bass and an underused population of channel catfish. Along with this, an excellent state park with good camping facilities is available.



Nine Eagles Lake

# tophunch

2006

## northeast

By Bryan Hayes, biologist  
A catch-and-release regulation on smallmouth bass in a four mile segment of the Maquoketa River



Lake McBride

Anglers witnessed an incredible increase in numbers and size of smallmouth bass. A string of low reproduction-years in the middle 1990s caused a downturn in the population that a catch-and-release regulation couldn't prevent. The smallmouth bass fishing in this segment is a top hunch for 2006 because of the rebounding numbers witnessed in last fall's fishery survey. Numbers and size are back. Anglers can access this area by small jon-boat, canoe or wading this scenic stretch of river in Delaware County.

## northwest

By Lannie Miller, biologist  
North Twin Lake in Calhoun County has it all. It has great fishing for a variety of fish, including bluegills and crappies up to 10 inches, yellow

starting just below Lake Delhi Dam was implemented almost 20 years ago. The first 10 years of the regulation

bass by the boat load, bullheads weighing more than a pound, walleye in the 2-pound-plus class and unlimited channel cat fishing. Combine this with excellent water clarity and you have the makings of a great outdoor adventure. Shoreline fishing is available but boat anglers will have the advantage.

## southeast

By Paul Sleeper, biologist  
All indications point toward a banner year for panfish at Lake Macbride. If you want to catch lots of bluegill, than Lake Macbride is the place to go. Most bluegills at Macbride will be around 6 to 7 inches and can be caught near the brush piles all year. There is also a strong year class of crappie from 8 to 10 inches. Fish these crappie in shallow brush in the spring and late fall. In the summer months crappie move away from the shorelines and suspend over deeper water. Macbride is a shoreline anglers dream spot with numerous hiking trails that will take you around most of the lake.

## southwest

By Chris Larson, biologist  
Lake Anita in Cass County is a good bet for excellent bluegill, largemouth bass and channel catfish fishing if the lake fills in the spring. The fish population was renovated in 2003 and additional fish habitat placed in the lake bottom, however fishing has been limited because the lake has been about 3 feet low for two years. If the lake does not fill, a temporary boat ramp will be constructed to improve access.



Maquoketa River

# riverrat 2006

## northeast

By Mark Winn, technician

The scenic Wapsipinicon River flowing through northeast Iowa offers diverse fishing opportunities for anglers and should be a top priority for anglers this coming season. Whether after northern pike, walleye, smallmouth bass, channel catfish or an occasional nice creel of crappies, this river offers all types of diverse habitats holding good numbers and sizes of fish. These species, with the exception of walleyes, are all self-sustaining naturally reproducing populations. Accessing fish in the “Wapsi” can be as easy as throwing on a pair of old sneakers and wading in Bremer County, or floating a jonboat in Buchanan County.

## northwest

By Jim Wahl, biologist

The Iowa River in Hardin County is one of the most scenic rivers in Iowa and offers some of the best fishing as well. Limestone rock provides rock-rubble substrate throughout the county, which is the preferred habitat for smallmouth bass. Channel catfish and northern pike also inhabit the river and provide self-sustaining

populations. Walleye fingerlings are stocked annually and have produced outstanding fishing in recent

years. Access is excellent with an abundance of public approaches throughout the county. Many anglers prefer to fish by canoe or small jonboat, however much of the stream is wadeable.

## southeast

By Bernie Schonhoff, biologist

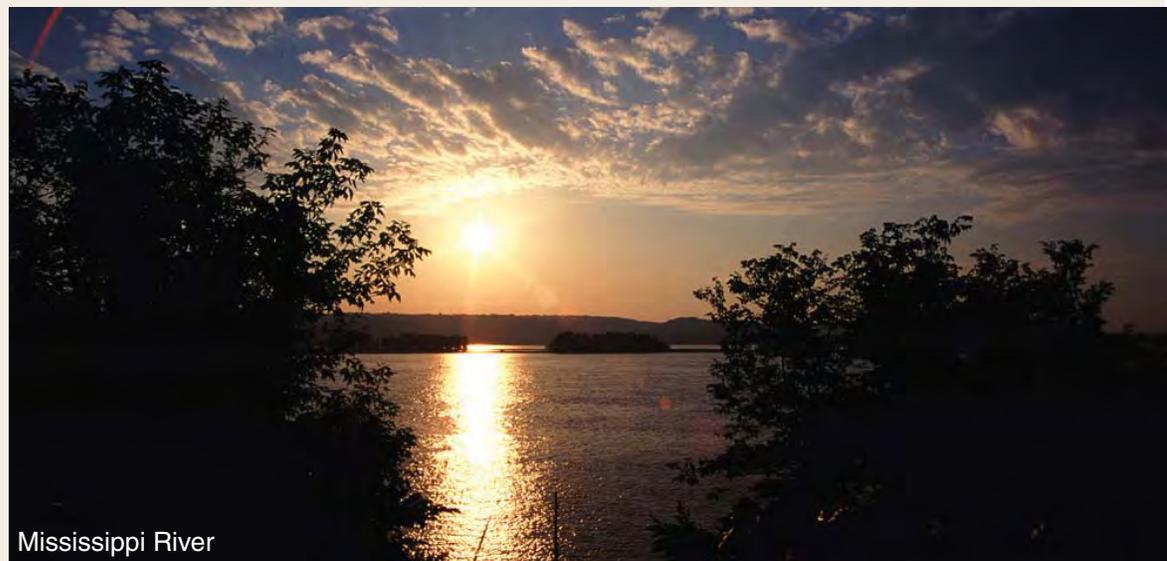
What makes the Mississippi River the best place for a fishing adventure no matter what you’re after? DIVERSITY. The Mighty Mississippi has something for everyone. You like catfish? Channel or flathead catfish, and bullheads, the Mississippi has them all. Like your fish with scales? Largemouth and smallmouth bass, the river has them both — just ask the ESPN/BASS

tournament anglers headed there this year. White bass are abundant and they’re willing biters, especially in the tailwaters in the spring. People often associate walleye and sauger with the northern lakes country, but they’re in the river in good numbers. Whether it’s crappies, bluegills or perch, the backwaters have plenty of panfish as well.

## southwest

By Andy Moore, supervisor

Two rivers, the Des Moines in Boone and Polk counties and the Middle Raccoon from Panora to Redfield in Guthrie and Dallas counties, are excellent fishing destinations. The Des Moines can be good for walleye, channel catfish, white bass and hybrid striped bass. Fishing can be good below the various low head dams in the Des Moines area and below the Saylorville and Red Rock dams into Marion County. The Middle Raccoon has very good walleye and smallmouth bass (catch-and-release only) fishing. New habitat has been constructed in the river above the highway P28 access.



Mississippi River

# worthmore than a day 2006

## northeast

By Scott Gritters, biologist  
You can maximize a couple fishing days up the Great River Road along the upper Mississippi River. The road runs along the eastern border of Iowa and connects with our neighboring states. Pick any section of the Great River Road and you can spend a couple quality days along the Mississippi River. This summer however, try concentrating on a trip



Pine Lake

hospitality. Some must see spots to visit are the Guttenberg aquarium, Guttenberg river walkway, Bussey Lake fishing float, Pikes Peak State Park, Effigy Mounds National Monument, Sny Magill and Bloody Run trout stream.

## northwest

By Jim Wahl, biologist  
Upper and Lower Pine lakes, located one-half mile east of Eldora, will provide some of the best bass fishing in northern Iowa. Both of these lakes support bass in the 6- to 7-pound range, with good numbers exceeding 3 pounds. If you prefer panfish, crappie and bluegill are abundant in both lakes. The Iowa River is within a stones throw of the lower lake dam and produces good catches of smallmouth bass, channel catfish and an occasional walleye or pike. Camping is available at Pine Lake State Park on the upper lake

section of the roadtrip has numerous fishing sites, great sightseeing and small river towns that are big on

and rental cabins are available on the Iowa River.

## southeast

By Mark Flammang, biologist  
It's one of Iowa's largest lakes and has the fishing quality to match. Year-in and year-out Lake Rathbun (Appanoose County) is recognized across Iowa and the Midwest as one of the great "go to" places for the crappie enthusiast, and 2006 will bring an abundance of 10- to 12-inch crappies. How about spending a day or two more chasing the walleye on Lake Rathbun? The all-time record for walleye harvest at Rathbun was set last year, with great numbers of 15- to 21-inch fish common.

## southwest

By Dick McWilliams, biologist  
The Polk County area offers enough fishing to last more than a day. Gray's, Easter, Big Creek, Blue Heron and Saylorville lakes, with a combined 6,800 acres of water, offer fishing for everything from channel catfish to hybrid striped bass to bluegill. Add the Des Moines River in Polk County into the mix, and excellent fishing with good access is readily available. Good lodging and restaurant accommodations, plus entertainment, make this area very inviting.



Mississippi River

# familyvacation spot 2006

## northeast

By Bryan Hayes, biologist  
Backbone State Park was Iowa's first dedicated state park back in 1920. As it was then, it remains one of the great family vacation spots in Iowa. Activities at the park and in surrounding communities are well worth planning a vacation around. Anglers can take fish from the well-stocked trout stream in the park, which is a popular place on Saturdays throughout the summer when the stocking truck arrives. The kids enjoy seeing the fish released into the stream and then going after 'em. Scenic Backbone Lake can add some variety to the creel. The good largemouth bass fishing from last year will likely carry over to 2006. All the accommodations needed for a memorable family vacation can be found within the park, and the scenery is priceless. Area events of interest include: Strawberry Days, June 9–11, Strawberry Point; Edgewood Rodeo Days, June 22–25, Edgewood; Delaware County Fair, July 10–16, Manchester; and the 25<sup>th</sup> Annual Backbone Bluegrass Festival, July 28–30. For more information, visit the Area Chamber of Commerce websites at; [www.strawberrypoint.com](http://www.strawberrypoint.com) or [www.manchesteriowa.org](http://www.manchesteriowa.org).

## northwest

By Jim Wahl, biologist  
There's something for everyone in the family at Clear Lake. Walleye, yellow bass, channel catfish, bullhead or even a muskie provides the angler plenty of opportunities on this 3,700-acre natural lake. Three public swim beaches are available, as well as water skiing and sailing. If you don't care for water activities, shop the many antique stores in downtown Clear Lake, or spend some time on one of three golf courses. Visitors are treated to special events at City Park nearly every weekend throughout the summer, and the Lady of the Lake tour boat is docked across the street. Several campgrounds and lodging facilities are available on or near the lake.

## southeast

By Mark Flammang, biologist  
Renovated in 1993, Lake Wapello in Davis County provides outstanding angling for bluegill (8- and 9-inch fish are common) and largemouth bass. Largemouth bass are extremely abundant and provide tremendous catch-and-releas-only angling. Camping spots are abundant and the recently renovated cabins provide a quiet and



Backbone State Park



Three Fires Lake

comfortable get away. Don't forget the lodge and restaurant on the lakeshore. Wapello is also a short drive from the historic Bloomfield

## town square. southwest

By Gary Sobotka, biologist  
Three Fires Lake in Taylor County is 80 acres and has great facilities for the family. Besides a new and rapidly growing fish population, there is tent camping and cabins, a swimming beach, playground, and best of all, there is excellent water quality.